

Fostoria, until the team is ready for West Independence, I want to speak of the happy meeting I have just had with Mary Lyons of Hiram, Ohio. From the Findlay paper I found she was to address an afternoon meeting at the Christian church where I met her before the services. Our conversation was cut short by the arrival of my train which came too soon after all. She is state organizer of the Christian Woman's Mission Board and had come to encourage the society at Findlay. Foreign missions is their theme.

Many are rejoicing in the change of the date of the conference, from the 22nd to the 29th inst., as many in the brotherhood are expecting to attend the Bible Conference before ours.

This will also give us more time to make out the reports after reaching Winona Park. If any society fails to receive the blank reports make out your report the best you can, giving us the number of members, of meetings and the total amount of money raised during the year, ending August 1st, 1899, then designate the amount given to each of the three funds of the S. S. C. E. Tell us also how your society will be represented at the coming conference. I hope by delegate, as we need you, your ideas, your vote, your presence. You need the inspiration, the help that is always received at a good conference and a good conference is what we are looking forward to. You can help to make it good. If impossible to come then be represented by letters.

Will the president and secretary see that their report blank is filled out at once and sent to me at Warsaw, Ind., before the 25th inst.

VIANNA DETWILER.

Fostoria, O.

Our Young People

THE CHRISTIAN'S PLEASURES—Ps. 23:1-6.
Topic for August 27.

There is no surer indication of a person's character than the kind of pleasure he seeks. We cannot judge a man by what he accomplishes because some have advantages over others. We cannot estimate a man's character by what he has done because he may have intended to do something else. Not what a man does but what he tries to do is the mark of what he is.

There are those who are really trying to live good lives but are bound by habits to evil ways and often fall, and there are those who pass by on the other side and sneer at them when they fall who yet are not trying half so hard to do right, and who in their careless, selfish pleasure seeking may really be more sinful in God's sight. The sinful pleasures are not all of them open to the eyes of all men and there are ways of idling away one's precious heritage of talent and opportunity which the world does not condemn but which God condemns. The man who loafs on the street corner is not much worse after all than the man who loafs in the parlor. The distance between the public hoe-down and the Christian (?) parlor dance is often taken at a step.

It is not the form that sin takes but the will that delights in it in any form that condemns one. The unregenerate speak of their pleasures and mock at the Christian who will give them up for the sake of his Master, but the unregenerate worldling knows nothing of the joy the Christian gains in return for his self-surrender. Here is the danger of evil com-

pany. A good Christian will often allow worldly associates to blarney them into believing that the Christian's joy is to be the same as their own and that there is no other. "Be not deceived. God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap." "To be carnally minded is death but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." "He that would be a friend of the world is an enemy of God." Not that the Christian is to be barred from the pleasures of eating and drinking, of music and art, and books and society. Not so, but he is to use all these things in the way which will glorify God whose temple he is. He is to seek first of all the kingdom and the will of God and regard these other things as the incidentals rather than the chief end of life.

Thus shall the cross become wings with which to rise to the "heavenly places in Christ Jesus;" thus shall "the light affliction which endureth but for a moment work out for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory," and thus shall life be like the rippling stream flowing thru the green pastures and leading on to the river whose waters make glad the city of God.

SCRIPTURE LIGHT

- 1 The way of pleasantness, Prov. 3:13-10.
- 2 The life of peace, John 14:27; 16:33.
- 3 The joy of harmony with God, Ps. 1:1-3; 40:8; 119:165-168.
- 4 The joy of obedience, P. 119:11-16.
- 5 The joy of power over sin, Gal. 5:16-18.
- 6 The joy of absence of fear, I John 4:18.
- 7 The joy of service, Luke 15:5-7; Rev. 22:3, 4.
- 8 The joy of fellowship with God, I John 1:3; Acts 5:32.
- 9 The joy of becoming "like him," Eph. 4:13.
- 10 The joy of being "partakers of his suffering," I Pet. 4:13; II Cor. 12:10.
- 11 The joy of right use of every blessing, Deut. 26:11.
- 12 The joy of the "heavenly places," Eph. 1:3, 4.

FOR OPEN DISCUSSION

- 1 What is pleasure?
- 2 Does God want us to have pleasure? How do you know?
- 3 What kinds of pleasure are there?
- 4 What kind of pleasure should the Christian seek? Why?
- 5 What results from seeking bad pleasures? I Tim. 5:6; II Peter 3:17-21.
- 6 How may we know whether we are seeking right pleasures or not? I John 3:21; I Cor. 10:31.
- 7 What joys do Christians have that others have not?
- 8 What are some pleasures that Christians should not wish to indulge in?
- 9 How may we cultivate love for right pleasures?

C. F. YODER.

Convention Program

I am now able after much writing and much more waiting to give you the program for our young people's work. In making up this program one thought has always been in my mind, "How to make our session most helpful and practical to our young people." The subjects to be dealt with are such that they can not be otherwise than helpful. Besides, those who will speak upon these subjects are men and women that will make the very best of the subject assigned them.

Attendance. It is to be hoped that the attendance will be large. There is an enthusiasm even in numbers, but of course we want a higher and more permanent enthusiasm than that. Every society should send a representative, or more if possible. Credentials will not be expected of them. The meetings will be opened to all that are interested in our work. But there should be at

least one from each society that will be under some obligations to the society to attend its sessions and carry a good report home.

Topic Cards. We expect to have topic cards ready and on sale at the Conference. Reserve your orders and be sure to send a large order with your representative. The price will remain the same. The orders that I now have will then be filled.

Supplies. There has been some demand for other supplies such as committee cards, membership cards, etc. We have not printed any such help yet, but as soon as the demand is sufficiently strong to guarantee the undertaking such helps will be printed. For the present, however, I think we can get such supplies elsewhere.

Expenses. I wrote in my last contribution about the financial condition of the society. You must have inferred that our work has been seriously handi-capped because of such condition. Now shall we launch into another year's work with no brighter prospects before us? I hope not. I have conferred with some of our brethren in regard to this matter and this conclusion has been reached, subject of course to the action of the individual society:—to have each society that may so choose to make a statement of the condition of the general society and ask for a contribution from each member, this contribution to be sent to the treasurer of the National Society. This contribution should be taken either upon the 20th or 27th of August, so the amount can be brought in person to conference. It is necessary that this matter be attended to at once and it is to be hoped that it will be.

Prospective. Many new plans of work for the coming year are suggesting themselves. The society is growing in numbers and also otherwise, so that new methods are made necessary. A growing society must necessarily be supplied with new and better methods. Consequently, we have arranged for several conferences on methods to be led by some of the very best talent in the church. Besides we expect to have a series of articles on "Methods," written for this department, as soon as arrangements can be made.

Topic Hints and Helps. Brother Yoder will continue to write "helps," on the topics. Surely no one can do better than he. His helps are the very best I have seen. We hope also this coming year to supplement his helps with some hints upon the topic, seed thoughts and plans and suggestions for the leader, etc.

The Program. I now give you the program as we expect it to be at conference.

At our public session at the tabernacle the following program will be rendered:

- Devotions by the President.
- What the Pastor Expects of the Young People. E. E. Haskins.
- What the Young People Expect of the Pastor. Mrs. L. S. Bauman.
- The Young Peoples' Society and Missions. J. C. Cassel.
- The Young Peoples' Society and Reforms. L. S. Bauman.
- The Young Peoples' Society and the Quiet Hour. Z. H. Coppi.